

Amendments to the claims:

1. A method for predicting the soybean cyst nematode resistance of soybean genotypes comprising:
 - (a) obtaining a spectroscopic scan of a soybean sample to provide an assay spectra over a predetermined frequency range;
 - (b) comparing the assay spectra with a predictive model based upon corresponding spectra obtained over the predetermined frequency range from at least one base sample selected from the group consisting of known soybean cyst nematode resistant genotypes, known soybean cyst nematode susceptible genotypes, and combinations thereof to provide comparison results; and
 - (c) predicting the soybean cyst nematode resistance of the soybean sample based upon the comparison results.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said soybean sample is selected from the group consisting of leaf, stem, and seed.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said soybean sample is seed.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the comparison results in step (b) are based upon a visual comparison between the assay spectra and the predictive model.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the comparing step (b) comprises using a discriminant analysis based upon the predictive model.
6. The method of Claim 6 wherein the discriminant analysis is a regression analysis.
7. The method of Claim 6 wherein the discriminant analysis comprises comparing peak intensity within the predetermined frequency range between the assay spectra and the corresponding spectra.
8. The method of Claim 1 wherein the model used in the comparing step (b) comprises a natural intelligent algorithm.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein the natural intelligent algorithm is selected from the group consisting of an adaptive filter, a neural network, and combinations thereof.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined frequency range comprises the near-infrared.

11. The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined frequency range is the near-infrared.

12. A method for predicting the soybean cyst nematode resistance of soybean genotypes comprising:

- (a) measuring near-infrared data of a soybean tissue sample using a near infrared (NIR) spectrometer to scan over the near infrared range of radiation,
- (b) transforming the near-infrared data measured in (a) by mathematical transformation to obtain mathematically transformed data,
- (c) inputting the transformed data into a predictive model for the soybean cyst nematode resistance of said sample, and
- (d) obtaining a prediction of the soybean cyst nematode resistance of said sample.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~13~~12 wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of soybean leaf, stem, and seed.

14. An electronically programmable apparatus for predicting the soybean cyst nematode resistance of soybean genotypes comprising:

- (a) a spectrophotometer configured to measure spectrographic data from a soybean tissue sample;
- (b) a predictive model for the soybean cyst nematode resistance of the sample;

- (c) program instructions for processing the spectrographic data by mathematical transformation to obtain mathematically transformed data acceptable for use in the predictive model; and
- (d) means for using the mathematically transformed data to obtain a prediction of the soybean cyst nematode resistance of the sample.

15. (Currently Amended) The electronically programmable apparatus of Claim ~~15~~14 wherein the spectrographic data is near-infrared data.

16. (Currently Amended) The electronically programmable apparatus of Claim ~~16~~15 wherein said near-infrared data is absorption data.

17. (Currently Amended) The electronically programmable apparatus of Claim ~~15~~14 wherein the near-infrared data is reflectance data.

18. (Currently Amended) The electronically programmable apparatus of Claim ~~15~~14 wherein the predictive model is a discriminant analysis.

19. (Currently Amended) The electronically programmable apparatus of Claim ~~15~~14 wherein the predictive model is a natural intelligent algorithm.

20. A machine readable form for use in predicting the soybean cyst nematode resistance of soybean genotypes comprising machine readable instructions operable for:

- (a) measuring near-infrared data of a sample selected from soybean seed, soybean plant tissue, or mixtures thereof using a near infrared (NIR) spectrometer to scan over the near infrared range of radiation;
- (b) transforming the near-infrared data measured in (a) by mathematical transformation to obtain mathematically transformed data;
- (c) inputting the transformed data into a predictive model for the soybean cyst nematode resistance of said sample; and
- (d) obtaining a prediction of the soybean cyst nematode resistance of said sample.

21. Soybean seed generated from a breeding program using the method of Claim 1.

22. Soybean seed generated from a breeding program using the method of Claim 12.
23. A method for comparing genotypes of biological samples comprising:
- (a) obtaining a spectroscopic scan of a tissue sample to provide an assay spectra over a predetermined frequency range; and
 - (b) comparing the assay spectra with a predictive model based upon corresponding spectra obtained over the predetermined frequency range from at least one control sample to provide comparison results.
24. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~24~~23 wherein said sample is selected from the group consisting of plant, animal, bacterial, fungal, and viral samples.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~25~~24 wherein said sample is plant.
26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~25~~24 wherein said sample is animal.
27. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~25~~24 wherein said sample is bacterial.
28. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~25~~24 wherein said sample is fungal.
29. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~25~~24 wherein said sample is viral.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~26~~25 wherein said plant is soybean.
31. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~24~~23 wherein said spectroscopic scan is an infrared spectroscopic scan.
32. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~24~~23 wherein said genotype is soybean cyst nematode resistance.

33. (Currently Amended) A plant breeding program based on results obtained from the method of Claim ~~24~~23.
34. (Currently Amended) Seeds generated from the method of Claim ~~30~~29.